GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4406
ANSWERED ON:25.04.2005
MULTI-NATIONAL COMPANIES IN SEED MARKET
Zahedi Shri Mahboob

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Trade Organisation (WTO) regime has led to the monopolization of seed markets by Multi-National Companies (MNCs);

(b) if so, whether the amendment in Patent Act and the New Seed Act would further strengthen this tendency;

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to protect the interest of the farmers;

(d) whether the untested Genetic Modified seeds are affecting the Genetic diversity of the crops in the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to protect the same?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA):

(a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Sufficient provisions are available under Seeds Act, 1966 and Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Rights Act, 2001 to protect the interest of farmers. Farmers are entitled to save, use, sow, resow, exchange,

(b) The apex body of the Board is headed by the Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare as Chairperson and Union Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare As Vice-Chairperson and other members drawn from various concerned Ministries/Departments/Organizations/ State and UT Governments as Ex-officio members while non-officials having expertise in various fields relating to medicinal plants are also nominated. The Board is to exist till further order as no tenure has been specified. However, the term of Non-official members and other nominated members from States/UTs, Research Councils and Pharmacopoeial Laboratories is for two years. The functions and duties of the Board is to coordinate all matters relating to medicinal plants, including drawing up policies and strategies for their conservation, proper harvesting, cost-effective cultivation, research and development and processing in order to protect, sustain and develop this sector.